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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7623

DEPTO 25

EXDIS

FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON OAS EC US
SUBJECT: BILATERAL WITH ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER LUCIO PAREDES, CUBA QUESTION

REF: QUITO 7599

1. AT BILATERAL MEETING MORNING NOVEMBER 10, ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER LUCIO PAREDES REFERRED TO HIS NOVEMBER 9 MESSAGE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER (REFTEL) AND PROFESSED TO ME CONVICTION THAT ENTIRE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM IS AT STAKE AT THIS FIFTEENTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING. LUCIO PAREDES ADDED THAT HIS GREATEST SOURCE OF CONCERN AS PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE WAS THAT THERE ARE SOME WHO WANT US OUT OF OAS ORGANIZATION AND, IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN, INTER-AMERICAN STRUCTURE WOULD CRUMBLE.

2. LUCIO PAREDES CONTINUED THAT CUBA QUESTION ITSELF IS SECONDARY TO MAINTAINING VITALITY OF RIO TREATY AND KEEP-ING OUR REGIONAL ORGANIZATION STRONG. CUBA IS A FRONT-PAGE ISSUE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE WE HAVE MADE IT SO. ONCE SANCTIONS ARE LIFTED, CUBA WILL LOSE ITS IMPORTANCE AND
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BECOME JUST ANOTHER COUNTRY LIKE THE REST OF US. LUCIO

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PAREDES ASSERTED THAT A LARGE PART OF THE CONFERENCE SUCCESS WOULD DEPEND OF US; IN FACT, OUR POSITION WOULD BE DECISIVE.

3. I TOLD LUCIO PAREDES THAT WE WANTED TO AVOID SITUATIONS OF THE PAST WHEREIN WE HAD DOMINATED THESE CONFERENCES. WE WANTED TO BE ONE OF TWENTY-ONE PARTICIPANTS AND HAVE OTHER COUNTRIES VOTE AS THEY BEST SEE FIT WITHOUT ANY PRESSURES FROM US. LUCIO REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR APPROACH PERFECTLY AND HE THOUGHT IT A SOUND AND CAUTIOUS ONE. NONETHELESS, HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO OUR VOTE.

4. AS THE SESSION BROKE UP, LUCIO PAREDES MENTIONED THAT BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS WAITING TO SEE HIM. EARLIER LUCIO PAREDES HAD ALLUDED TO A DISCUSSION WITH THE BRAZILIANS ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 9 AT WHICH HE HAD TOLD THEM OF THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY THEY SHARED TOWARDS THE CONFERENCE. HAPPILY, LUCIO PAREDES SAID, THE BRAZILIAN HAD REFEECTED ON THEIR POSITION AND WERE PREPARED TO ADVANCE A NEW FORMULA WHICH THEY WERE COMING IN TO DISCUSS WITH HIM NOW.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE HEARING THIS PLEA FROM OTHERS, INCLUDING GALO PLAZA, THE DOMINICAN AND THE VENEZUELAN. HOWEVER, THE CONFERENCE, IN OUR OPINION, HAS NOT YET REACHED THAT CRUCIAL POINT, AND MAY INDEED NEVER ARRIVE AT THAT STAGE. WITNESS THE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON OF THE SPONSORS, AND OTHERS, INCLUDING GUATEMALA, IN A FURTHER SEARCH FOR A VIABLE FORMULA.

6. SEPTEL FOLLOWS ON BILATERAL TOPICS COVERED AT MEETING.
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